

SENATE BILL 1377

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 3; Title 13, Chapter 19 and Title 68,
Chapter 120, relative to residential and energy
codes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-734, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) Notwithstanding title 13, chapter 19 to the contrary, the energy conservation standards for a new residential building construction on or after July 1, 2023, are the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code published by the International Code Council.

(b) The department is requested to provide information to the public concerning the 2018 International Energy Conservation Codes on its website.

(c) This section does not mandate a higher level of enforcement or inspection by a local government than that in place prior to January 1, 2009.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 13-19-101, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) The Model Energy Code, 1992 Edition, for energy conservation in new building construction, published by the Council of American Building Officials, is adopted by reference as the minimum requirements for the effective use of energy in new buildings. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this subsection (a), a local jurisdiction may adopt the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code with 2002 amendments, published by the International Code Council, as the minimum requirements for the

effective use of energy in new buildings in that jurisdiction. However, a revision or amendment to the above-referenced codes become effective only upon approval by the general assembly by legislative enactment.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or this chapter to the contrary, for new residential building construction on or after July 1, 2023, the energy conservation standards in the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code published by the International Code Council and adopted pursuant to § 4-3-734, are the state energy conservation standards. A new code, or a revision or amendment that is more stringent than the above-referenced code, becomes effective only upon approval by the general assembly by legislative enactment.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 13-19-106, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) For new non-residential construction, a local government shall adopt the state code for energy conservation in new building construction with any amendments it deems reasonably necessary to accommodate local conditions. If the standards adopted by a local government are equal to or stricter than the code, then the local standards control. If the local standards are less strict than the code standards, then the code standards control.

(b) For new residential construction, a local government shall adopt the state code for energy conservation pursuant to § 4-3-734. A revision or amendment that is more stringent than the above-referenced code becomes effective only upon approval by the general assembly by legislative enactment.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.